

See L-126/1000

INTRA-LABORATORY CORRESPONDENCE

OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY

August 1, 1963

*Director's Files, 1962-63
Safety & Radiation Control
Folder, Shelf # 58*

To: Division Directors
Radiation Control Officers

LOCAL AND OFF-SITE CONTAMINATION

The following unusual occurrence is presented as a memorandum rather than a Radiation Safety and Control Advisory Bulletin because of its sensitive nature. You are, however, encouraged to use the information in your radiation safety program in the interest of preventing similar occurrences.

A chemist recently caused the spread of radioactive contamination to his laboratory, a lunch room, his home, two automobiles, and baseball equipment. He was conducting an electroplating experiment, using a solution containing promethium-147 and technetium-99. In violation of Divisional regulations, he handled the equipment and containers without gloves and neglected to monitor his hands before leaving for home.

The contamination of the laboratory was not discovered until the next morning when a survey of the employee indicated that his hands, hair, face, and clothing were contaminated. A Health Physics team re-traced the individual's movements and all contaminated objects with which he had contact were readily decontaminated.

Excreta specimens have been obtained from all individuals who were directly involved and who may have been exposed to an intake of the material. Preliminary analytical data indicate that no one has received a serious internal deposition.

This occurrence points out the necessity for all personnel working with radioactivity to observe all Divisional and Health Physics regulations. Had this individual monitored himself before leaving his laboratory, this occurrence would have been avoided.

*8-9-63
This will be rough if
it hits the Oak Ridge.
m.s.R.*

F. R. Bruce
F. R. Bruce, Director
Radiation Safety and Control
This document has been approved for release
to the public by:

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Technical Information Officer Date
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